

Presentation to the Alexandria Early Childhood Commission
Alexandria Early Childhood Funding Streams
FY 2009 Federal, State and Local Programs
September 8, 2008
Updated November 19, 2008

1. Head Start - \$1.774 million in federal funding (plus a \$196,541 local supplement) – The City is the grantee for the Head Start program in Alexandria and has delegated the operation of the program to The Campagna Center for 41 years. The grant is administered by the Office for Early Childhood Development. Alexandria Head Start is budgeted to serve **252** low-income preschool age children at T. C. Williams High School, George Washington Middle School, Mt. Vernon Community School, Jefferson Houston, Cora Kelly, John Adams, Patrick Henry and Samuel Tucker Elementary schools and Northern Virginia Community College. All Head Start sites are accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). **One of the two classrooms at Mt. Vernon is funded with local and state Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) dollars at a cost of \$123,810 and the 17 children served in that classroom are included in the VPI numbers.**

2. Early Head Start - \$674,051 in federal dollars - The Campagna Center is the grantee and delegate agency for this federal program that serves **60** children. Thirty-two are in center-based care, four in family child care and 24 receive home-based services. There are four classrooms: one infant/one toddler at George Washington Middle School and one infant/one toddler at T. C. Williams High School. All Early Head Start sites are accredited through NAEYC.

3. TANF Working and Transitional Child Care (TCC) – (estimated) \$1.6 million plus \$161,576 in local match) – These are mandated programs made up of federal, State and local revenues that help Department of Human Services *Alexandria Works!* clients leave public assistance and become self-sufficient. These are mandated programs and the state budgets sufficient dollars each year to ensure that there will be enough funding to serve all eligible clients. At the midyear budget review, dollars from these programs are often released to the Fee System program. **In FY 2008, the two programs served an average of 343 children per month.**

4. Child Day Care Fee System – (estimated) \$2.3 million plus \$115,939 local match and \$500,000 in supplemental local dollars – The Child Day Care Fee System (Fee System) provides a child care subsidy to income eligible families to help them maintain their employment, complete their education or get job training. This program is funded through a combination of federal, State and local dollars and serves children from birth to age 13 in family child care and child care centers. Some of the federal funding for this program requires no match; other funding requires a local match of 10 percent. DHS uses the 100% federal dollars first, before accessing the budget line that requires a local match. **In July 2008, the Fee System served 414 families and 619 children, an increase of 115 families and 156 children from July 2007.**

Effective in FY 2007, the \$1 million in federal pass-thru dollars that had been previously budgeted for Alexandria and that could be drawn down with a dollar for dollar local match was no longer available so City Council allocated \$800,000 dollars to help make up the difference.

After the midyear budget review in January 2008, the Virginia Department of Social Services was able to reallocate unused Fee System dollars so that the Department of Social Services did not need all of the \$800,000 that was allocated by City Council. The \$300,000 in leftover dollars was approved by Council in June for a variety of one-time uses in FY09, including funding slots for children and quality enhancement in center based care and family child care.

5. The Campagna Kids Program - \$3.8 million (including \$1.9 million in general fund dollars) - The Campagna Center proposes to provide before- and after-school child care services to 800 elementary age children at 12 sites and a summer camp program during FY 2009 under a Cooperative Grant Agreement with the City of Alexandria. All sites are accredited through the National Afterschool Association. The City funds provide a subsidy for families on a sliding fee scale. Other program revenues include parent fees, the TANF and Transitional Child Care programs, the Child Day Care Fee System and the USDA Food Program.

6. Alexandria Fund for Human Services/Children's Fund - \$1.037 million (100% local funds) - The Early Childhood Commission establishes the priorities for the Children's Fund, which provides comprehensive services and local matching grants to organizations providing early childhood development programs, family support, early intervention, parent education and home visiting services to at-risk families. **Children's Fund programs served approximately 600 children in FY 2008.**

7. Virginia Preschool Initiative - FY 2008 - \$220,020 (193 children at \$1,140 per child) – In FY 2008, VPI required an 80% local match to draw down \$1,140 in VPI dollars, which is based on 20% of the assumed cost of care of \$5,700. Since the actual cost of care is closer to \$9,000, Alexandria has actually been contributing more than 90% of the per child cost. The local match consists primarily of Children's Fund and Mini-Grant dollars, foundation and fundraising dollars and in-kind donations of space and volunteer time. The tuition for eligible children is paid through TANF, TCC and Fee System and the VPI dollars are used to pay for wrap-around services. There is a \$60,000 Children's Fund set-aside which is used to pay the co-pay required by TCC and Fee System.

The VPI per-child amount will increase to \$1,200 in 2009, when the assumed cost of care increases to \$6,000 (20% of \$6,000 = \$1,200). The local match requirement has been capped at 50% per child beginning in 2010, which means that Alexandria will then draw down \$3,000 per child in state dollars and the local match dollars can be spread further. **In FY 2009, the Alexandria VPI will serve 210 children.**

All VPI sites are either accredited through NAEYC, have applied for accreditation or are undergoing re-accreditation.

8. Mini-Grant Program - \$50,000 (100% local funds) - The Early Childhood Commission establishes the priorities for the Mini-Grant program which provides funding for quality enhancement activities to child care centers, family child care providers and other groups serving at-risk children. Funding for this program has remained constant since 1989 and provided funding to 9 centers in FY 2009. Half of the fund has been set-aside this year to pay for targeted training and education for family child care providers, such as CDA training in English and in Spanish.

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